

Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

- Present: Jill Bussey, Katherine Bornstein, Young Smith, Ronnie Sanderson,
- Absent: Marshall McLeod Richard Green

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as read.

FY2017 Annual Report Preparation - Becky ask the Board if they had questions or comments about the draft report she distributed at last meeting. The members had no questions but Jill was pleased to see the increase in the number of people who receive the Office's Quick Tips. Becky provided the Board members with additional statistics on the number and types of inquiries and complaints that OCP received in fy17 for discussion at the next meeting.

2018 Student Loan Forum – Becky will be meeting with Dawn Lowe from Howard County Community College next week to discuss the 2018 event. Becky asked the Board to think about changes they would like to see made to both the program and the logistics of the event. Jill requested that Becky send the board the agenda from last year's event and the synopsis of comments received by the audience. The Board will discuss ideas as well as input from HCCC at the next meeting.

Landlord-Tenant draft law - Becky has revised the draft using the feedback provided by several of the County agencies that provide services relating to rental properties, and is in the process of setting up a meeting with County Administration's Legislative Director to discuss next steps.

DCRS updates -

- Jackie Scott has been appointed Director of DCRS (formerly Deputy Director and Acting Director)
- DCRS offices will be moving to the new County Human Services Campus later this year or in early 2018.
- OCP as well as other DCRS offices are engaged in strategic planning for FY18-19. Becky will provide the Board its plans and welcome the members feedback.

Announcements and New Business

- Becky shared with the Board the Office's preliminary plans for a National Consumer Protection Week event in March 2018. The Office is hoping to partner with AARP and others on an event that will focus on Tax ID Theft, selecting a tax preparer and free tax services. Jill ask Becky to find out what assistance AARP and VITA tax preparers can provide to residents who have varying immigration statuses.
- Jill said that she believes that the County's PTAs would like to provide information to parents about Child ID theft. Both Jill and Katherine, however, have found that it can be very difficult to freeze a child's credit report and that they were concerned about the security of the documents they needed to upload to the credit reporting agencies' sites. Becky said she would look into the concerns and, if possible, create resource materials that will make this easier.
- Several Board members stated that they would be unable to attend the next meeting so Becky will poll everyone to see if there will be quorum and if not, attempt to reschedule the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47.